

SPIDER ISLAND

HEROES FOR HIRE

MARVEL

WWW.MARVEL.COM

ONE-SHOT

1

SPIDER ISLAND



YARDIN
AFTER
ROMITA

ABNETT
LANNING
HOTZ
ALMOND

SPIDER ISLAND

HEROES FOR HIRE

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SPECIAL THANKS TO
DAN SLOTT

After an emotional break-up with martial arts master Danny Rand, former detective Misty Knight formed the underground mercenary agency, Heroes for Hire.

Under Misty's watchful eye (as the mysterious "Control"), Heroes For Hire united disparate urban operatives to take down larger criminal threats.

Her only permanent hire was Paladin, a mercenary who prides himself on his professionalism, but was sticking around for far more personal reasons.

Now, Manhattan is infested!

The villainous Jackal has genetically engineered bedbugs to spread Spidey-powers with their bite...

...and the city is overrun with spider-powered, joyriding bullies and thugs!

HELLO,
HERO,
ARE YOU
FOR HIRE?

"ANSWER ME
ONE *SIMPLE*
QUESTION..."

ARACHNID INFECTION CRISIS,
NEW YORK CITY,
DAY TWO.





...ARE YOU FOR HIRE, HERO?



DAY THREE, MORNING...

ARE YOU BEING SERIOUS, MAYOR JAMESON?

HOW DO I SOUND?

I NEED EVERY ABLE BODY I CAN GET TO ENFORCE THE QUARANTINE ZONE.

CAN YOU DEPLOY YOUR OPERATIVES AT STRATEGIC POINTS TO PREVENT THE CONTAGION FROM SPREADING BEYOND MANHATTAN?



HEROES FOR HIRE IS ASSISTING IN THIS TIME OF CRISIS, MR. MAYOR.

YOUR OFFICIAL SANCTION IS A BONUS.

BY THE WAY, THE TERM "HIRE" IS SYMBOLIC. THERE WILL BE NO COST TO THE CITY.

I FIELD SPECIALISTS WHERE THEY NEED TO BE FIELDED, FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD.

THE CITY THANKS YOU, CONTROL.

LET'S KEEP A CHANNEL OPEN SO YOU CAN LIAISE WITH THE ANTI-SPIDER PATROL.



WHOOPEE. WE GET TO PLAY BORDER CROSSING GUARDS FOR J. JONAH JAMESON.

YOU KNOW HOW SERIOUS THIS IS, PALADIN PAL-O-MINE.

EVERYONE IN THE CITY IS TURNING INTO FREAKING SPIDERS. IT'S NOT A GOOD TIME FOR NYC.



I GUESS.

AND I GUESS WORKING FOR CITY HALL WILL DO OUR COMPANY PROFILE SOME FAVORS.

BUT MARK MY WORDS...

"...IT'S GOING TO BE A LONG, PULL DAY."

THE SPUYTEN DUYVIL BRIDGE BETWEEN MANHATTAN AND THE BRONX...





WATCH YOURSELF, MISTY!

APPRECIATED, FALCON!

I THINK COPPERHEAD'S THE BRAINS BEHIND THIS BREAK-OUT ATTEMPT!

YOU'RE INFRINGING OUR HUMAN RIGHTS!

LET US OFF THE ISLAND!

YEAH, LET US OUT!



LIH-OH!

LET US OUT!

KILL THEM IF THEY TRY TO STOP US!



LITTLE HELP!



GET OFF ME!



GOTTA GRAB SOME BREATHING SPACE...



...BEFORE THEY RIP ME APART!



SOMEONE
GET THE BRIDGE
MOVING
YET?

CAT
HAS OPERATED
THE MECHANISM.
IT'S SWINGING
APART WIDER NOW.
WE HAVE A
FIREBREAK.



TRANQ
ANYTHING IN
THE WATER. STOP
THEM GETTING
ACROSS!

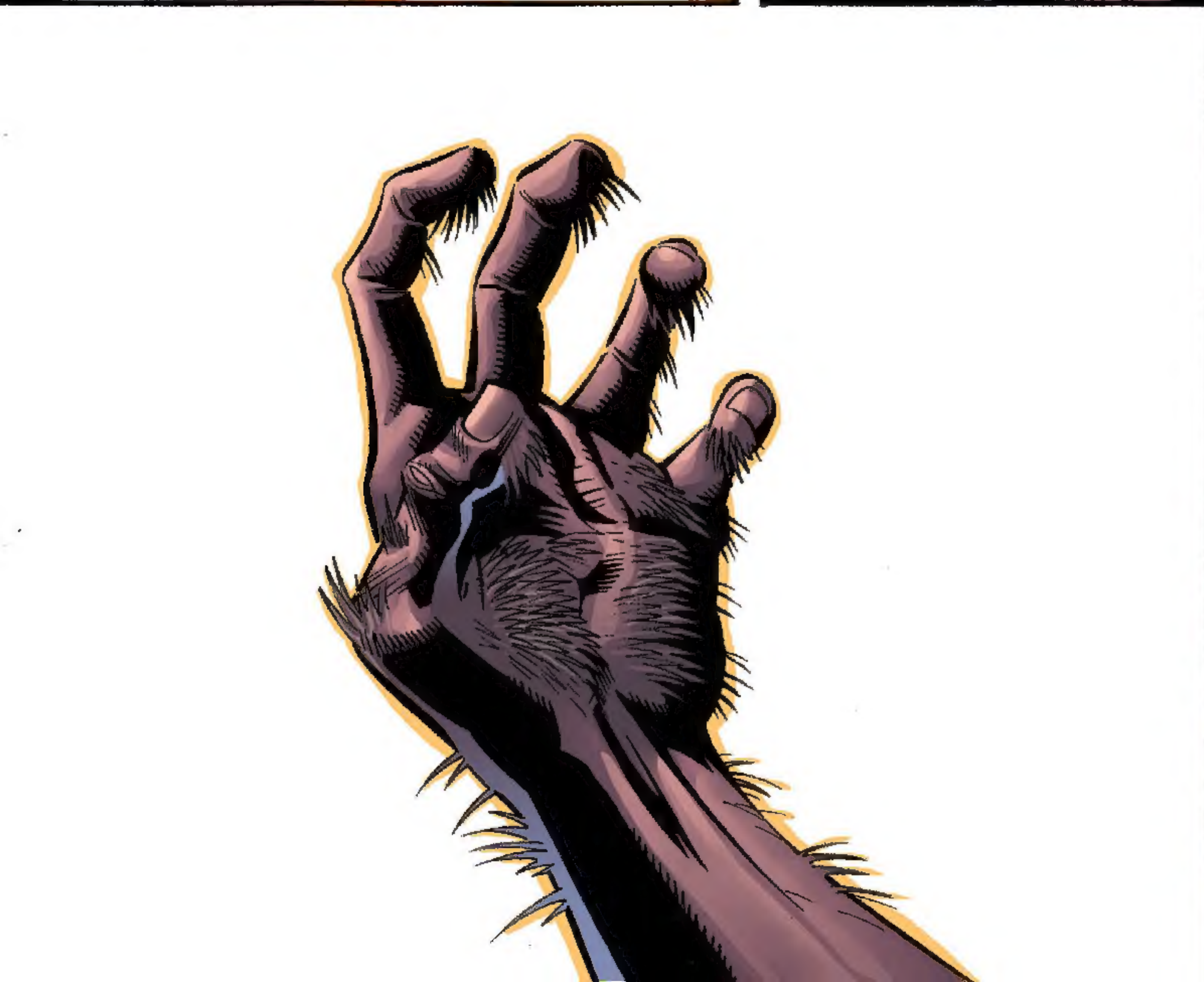


MAN,
THAT WAS
HAIRY...

PALADIN...
SINCE WHEN
CAN YOU
JUMP THAT
FAR?

YOU
GOT SOME
KIND OF--

OH
NO...



LOOK
ON THE
BRIGHT
SIDE.

I'VE ALWAYS
WANTED TO
SHOW THAT **COCKY**
WEB-SPINNING
AMATEUR WHAT A
PRO COULD DO
WITH POWERS
LIKE HIS.



CALL ME CRAZY, BUT I THINK THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN A SECRET A.I.M. BASE UNDER GRAND CENTRAL.

WOULD EXPLAIN WHERE THEY SPRUNG FROM WITH ALL THIS TECH!

WE WON'T LET YOU DISSECT US!

RIGHT. THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE.

MAN, TALK ABOUT A PARANOID MINDSET.

I GUESS WE KNOW HOW A.I.M. SCIENTISTS WOULD HANDLE THIS CRISIS!



SUBDUDE THEM! FAST!

BEFORE THEY START CUTTING UP THE CIVILIANS TO FIND A CURE FOR THEMSELVES!

SUBDUDE THIS!



AIGHH!

FROOM



MISFIRE, HUH?

BOY, TALK ABOUT UNLUCKY!



UNLUCKY OR NOT, BLACK CAT, ONE OF THEM'S GONNA CATCH THE PUBLIC IN THE CROSSFIRE SOONER OR LATER!

PUT THEM DOWN AND GET THEM SECURE STAT!



LOOK OUT, MISTY!

HUH?



OH MY GOD.



DON'T WORRY. I GOT YOUR BACK.

PALADIN?



DON'T
LOOK SO
WORRIED.

I'M
FINE.
I'M
BETTER
THAN
FINE.

HAVE
YOU SEEN
HOW **FAST**
I CAN MOVE
NOW?
HOW
QUICK MY
REACTIONS
ARE?

I'M SO
FINE.

HE SO
AIN'T.



I TOLD
YOU TO GET
TREATMENT.
I SENT
YOU TO NIGHT
NURSE.

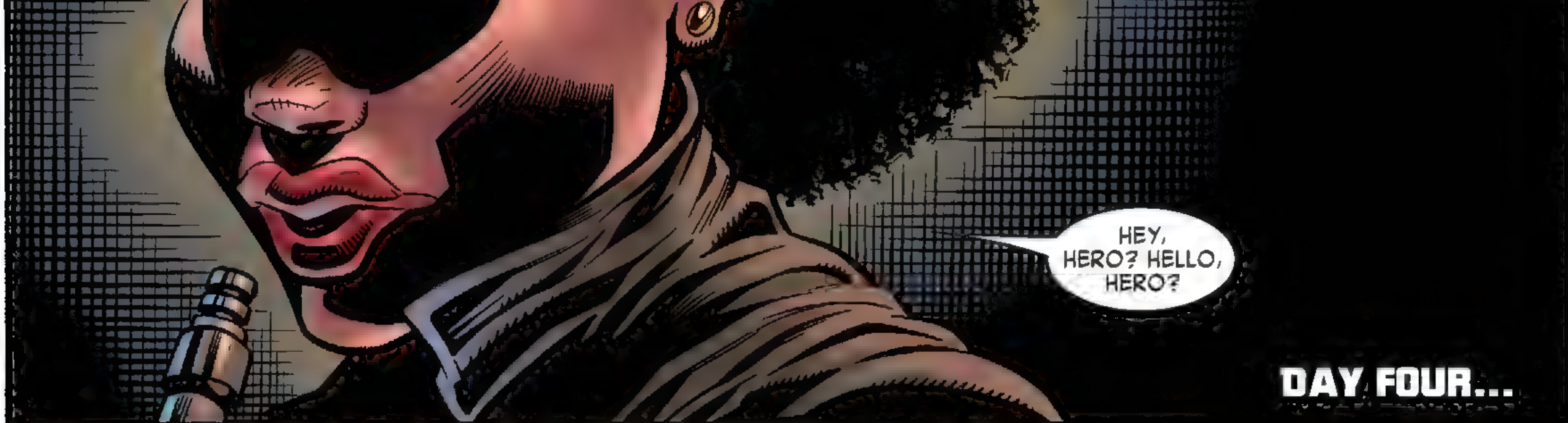
WHAT, NO
THANKS FOR
TAKING DOWN AN
A.I.M. SPLINTER
CELL?

NO WONDER
WEB-HEAD USED
TO FEEL
UNAPPRECIATED.



THERE'S A
CRISIS TO
CONTAIN.

CATCH
YOU
LATER.





"... I'VE GOT A VITAL ERRAND TO RUN."



I'M NO LONGER GETTING A SIGNAL FROM CONTROL.

WE'RE ON OUR OWN, ELEKTRA...



"...SHE HAD TO STEP AWAY."



SHE HAD TO WHAT?

WE NEED HER TO COORDINATE THIS DEFENSE!

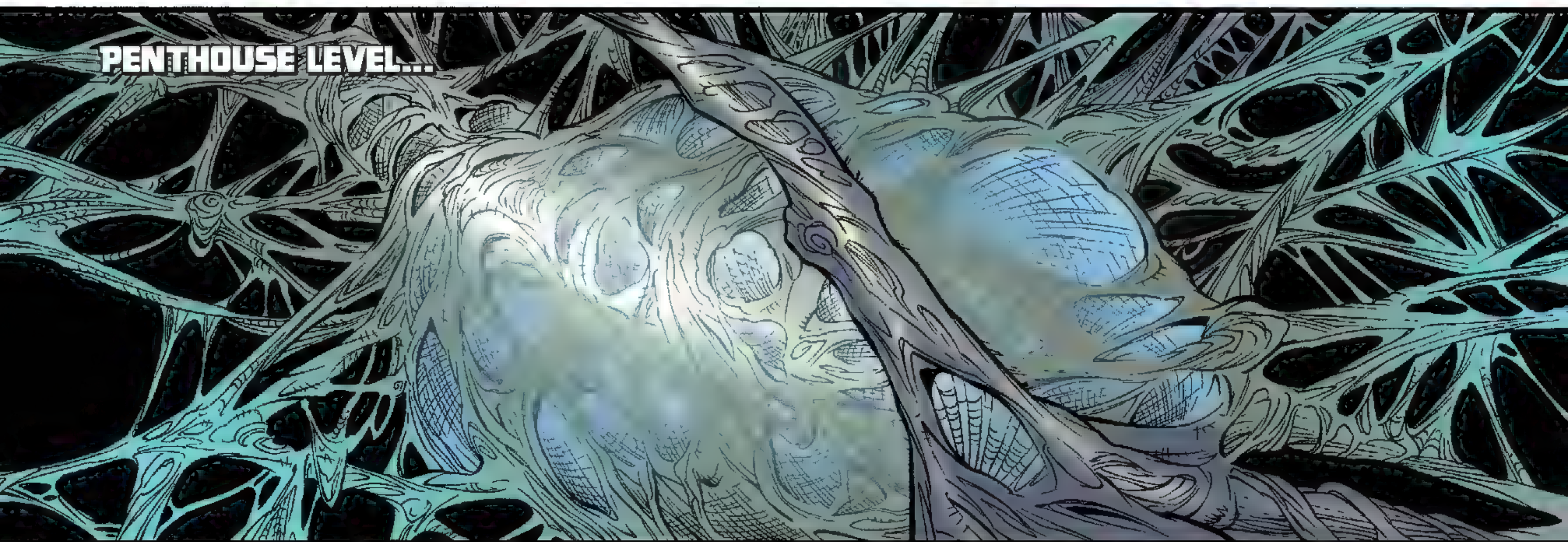
WHAT THE HELL WAS SO IMPORTANT THAT--

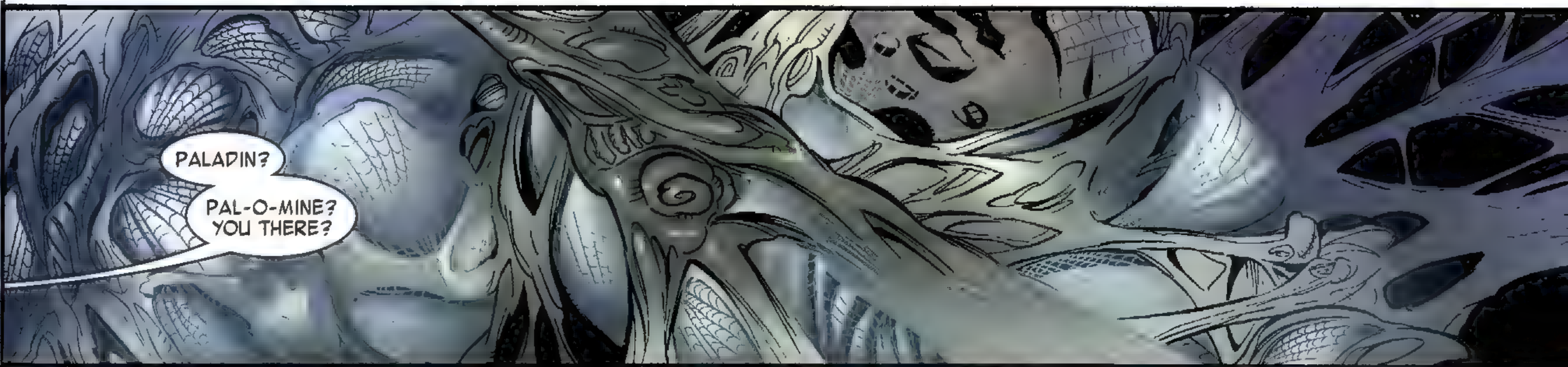
SAM...



"...I CAN ONLY GUESS THAT SPIDERS ARE INSIDE HER HQ, AND SHE'S GOT A FIGHT ON HER HANDS TOO."







PALADIN?

PAL-O-MINE?
YOU THERE?

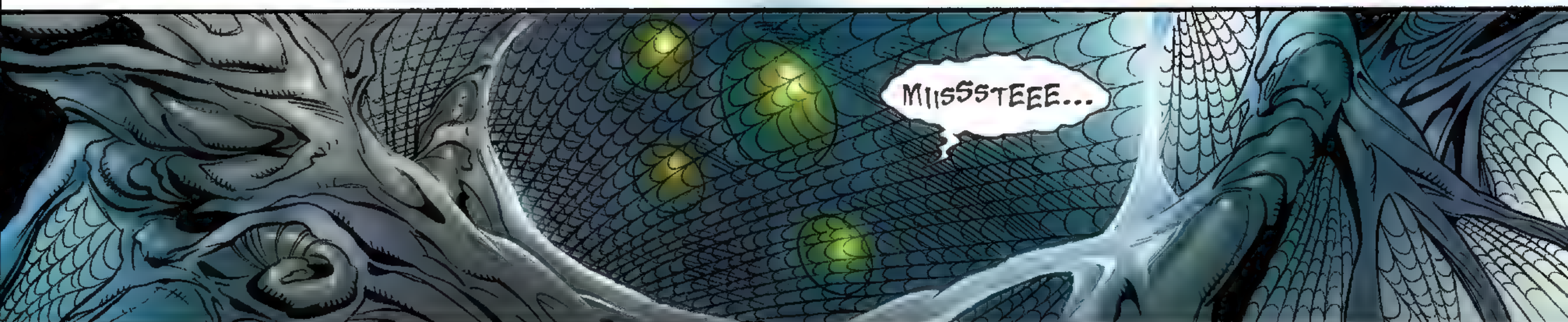


PALADIN?

PAUL?

BOY, THAT'S
WEIRD TO SAY.
I NEVER CALL
YOU BY YOUR
NAME.

MAINLY
'CAUSE I'M
PRETTY SURE
IT'S NOT YOUR
REAL NAME.



MISSSTE...EE...



I
MEAN, YOU...
INTERNATIONAL
MAN OF MYSTERY...
PURPLE
MERCENARY...

HOW MANY
ALIASES YOU
ACTUALLY
GOT?

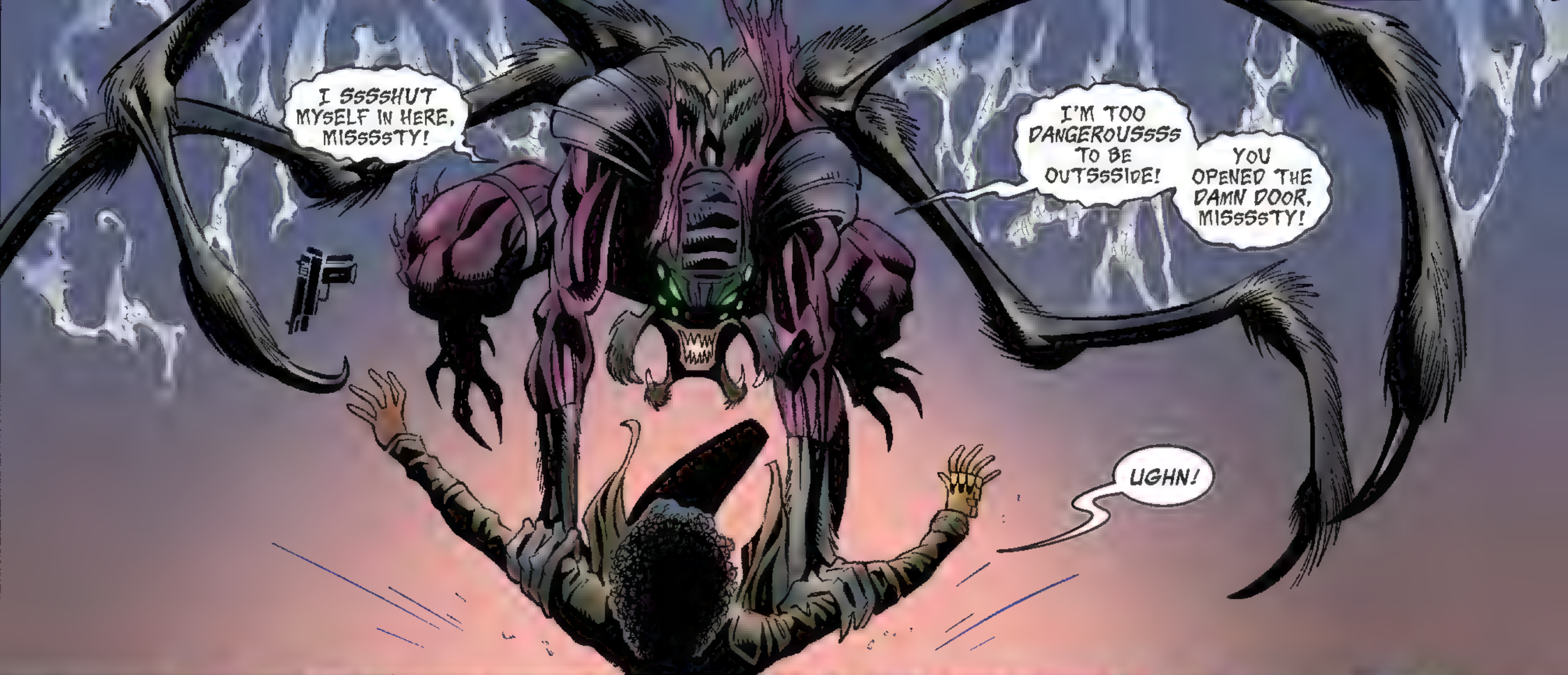
IS THERE
ANYONE IN THE
WHOLE WORLD
WHO KNOWS
THE REAL
YOU?

COME ON,
WHERE ARE
YOU?

MISSSTEEEEEE--!

The scene is set in a dark, cavernous environment. A woman with a red headband and a green jacket is in the foreground, looking up with a shocked expression. Behind her, a large, multi-headed creature with a human-like face and sharp teeth is roaring. The creature's body is covered in scales and has long, flowing hair. The background is filled with dark, jagged rock formations and a large, glowing blue orb.

OH.
HEY,
PAUL.



I SSSSHUT
MYSELF IN HERE,
MISSSSSTY!

I'M TOO
DANGEROUSSSS
TO BE
OUTSSSIDE!

YOU
OPENED THE
DAMN DOOR,
MISSSSSTY!

UGHN!



YOU
QUARANTINED
YOURSELF,
HUH?

VERY
NOBLE.

NOW WHAT?
YOU GONNA EAT
MY FACE OFF FOR
BUSTING YOUR
CORDON?



NOT SO
NOBLE.



I CAME
TO MAKE
SURE YOU
WERE OKAY,
DAMMIT!









DAWN...

HARD TO THINK.
HARD TO KNOW
WHERE I STOP
AND THE VIRUS
BEGINS.



I'VE TALKED
ALL NIGHT TO A
MAN WHO CAN'T
UNDERSTAND
WHAT I'M SAYING.



DEEP DOWN, I'VE
KNOWN FOR A WHILE
THAT PALADIN'S GOT
A THING FOR ME.
I TRY TO PRETEND
IT ISN'T THERE.

NOW I'VE SPENT
THE CRAZIEST, MOST
NIGHTMARISH NIGHT
OF MY LIFE TELLING
HIM **EVERY SECRET**
INSIDE ME.



MY UNRESOLVED
FEELINGS FOR MY
EX, **DANNY RAND**.
THE FACT THAT
I MAY SECRETLY
HAVE A THING
FOR PALADIN TOO.

IT'S ALL COME
OUT. **FINALLY**.
AND THE **SAD**
PART IS...



...UNLESS THIS DAWN
BRINGS A **CURE**
AND **SAVES** THIS CITY,
NEITHER OF US ARE
EVER GOING TO
REMEMBER IT.

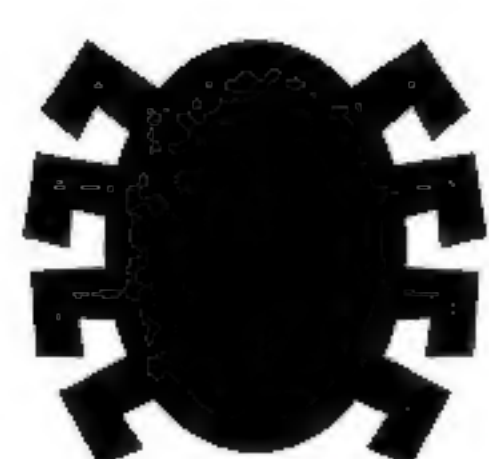
THIS SPIDER-ISLAND
BOUND US TOGETHER LIKE
FLIES IN A WEB, BUT ARE
WE EVER GOING TO KNOW
HOW **CLOSE** THE **HUMAN**
PARTS OF MISTY KNIGHT
AND PAUL DENNING
ACTUALLY GOT TO BE?

THE END?

DAILY BUGLE

SPIDER ISLAND

CHECKLIST



JULY

-  SI: DAILY BUGLE FREE PREVIEW
-  ASM #666 — PRELUDE

AUGUST

-  ASM #667 — PART 1
-  SI: CLOAK AND DAGGER #1
-  SI: DEADLY FOES #1 (ONE-SHOT)
(FEATURING HOBGOBLIN AND THE JACKAL)
-  VENOM #6
-  SI: DEADLY HANDS OF KUNG FU #1
-  SI: SPIDER-GIRL #1
-  ASM #668 — PART 2

SEPTEMBER

-  SI: CLOAK AND DAGGER #2
-  SI: AVENGERS #1 (ONE-SHOT)
-  HERC #7
-  ASM #669 — PART 3
-  SI: SPIDER-GIRL #2
-  VENOM #7

SEPTEMBER CON'T.

-  HERC #8
-  SI: SPIDER-WOMAN #1 (ONE-SHOT)
-  ASM #670 — PART 4
-  SI: DEADLY HANDS OF KUNG FU #2
-  SI: I  NEW YORK CITY #1 (ONE-SHOT)

OCTOBER

-  SI: HEROES FOR HIRE #1 (ONE-SHOT)
-  SI: CLOAK AND DAGGER #3
-  BLACK PANTHER #524
-  ASM #671 — PART 5
-  SI: DEADLY HANDS OF KUNG FU #3
-  SI: SPIDER-GIRL #3
-  VENOM #8
-  ASM #672 — PART 6

NOVEMBER

-  ASM #673 — EPILOGUE

IT'S CONTAGIOUS!

#SpiderIsland

NEXT IN SPIDER-ISLAND: LEARN THE FATE OF NEW YORK'S HEROES IN AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #671 & 672!



VILLAINS FOR HIRE #0.1



WHY, MISTY... WHY?